
Plan Context: Land Use, Geography, Demographics

Section 2

Kenmore Park, Recreation and Open
Space Plan

Context

This section contains a discussion of the various elements that provide context to the existing and proposed delivery of park, open space and recreation services to Kenmore residents. Key contributors to this perspective are history (see Land Use Element pgs 4A-3-5 2009 Kenmore Comprehensive Plan), geography, current land use, people and partners.

Planning Area

The planning area for the City of Kenmore Parks Recreation and Open Space Plan is defined by the city limits. The city's adopted Comprehensive Plan contains detailed information and background regarding environmental conditions, city history, transportation, and other land use related issues.

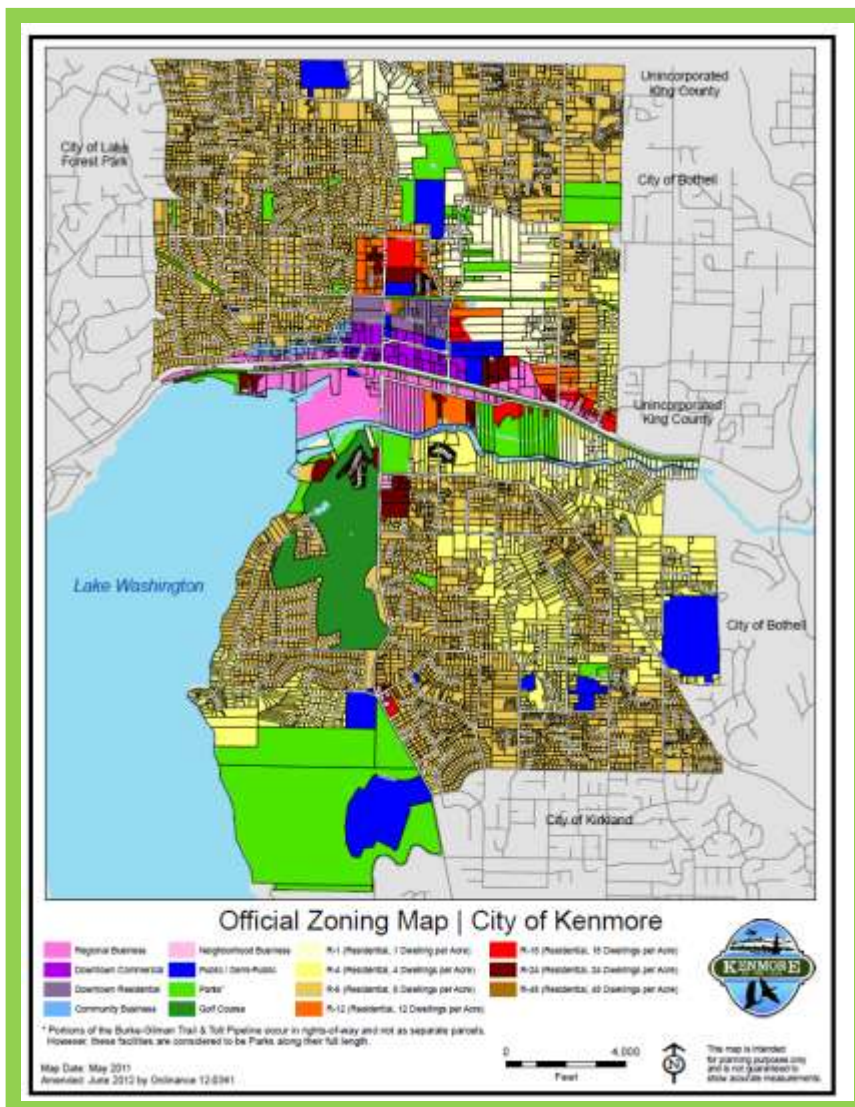
Figure 2.1 Map: City Limits



Current Land Use and Development

The current land use and development pattern are strongly influenced by the city's natural environment, including the Sammamish River and Swamp Creek stream corridors, Lake Washington waterfront, along with wetlands and steep ravines. Commercial activities and multi-family residential development are concentrated along the SR522 corridor and surround

Figure 2.2 Map: City Zoning



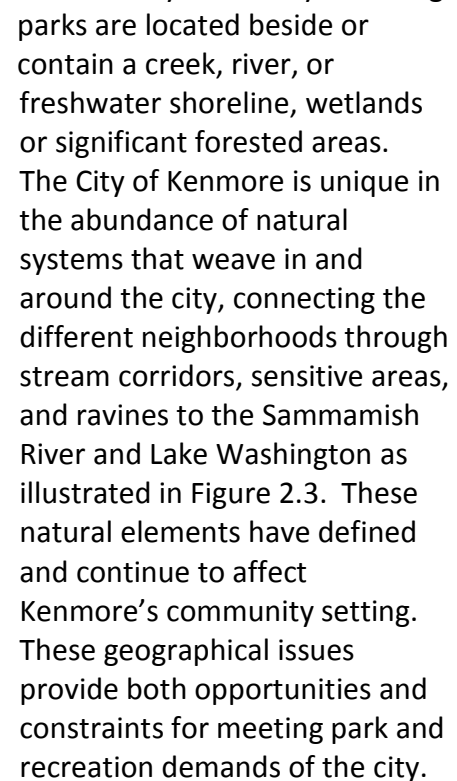
the key intersection of SR522 and 68th Avenue NE.

The majority of remaining land use is single family, with the exception of large public and private open space land tracts at St. Edward State Park and Bastyr University, and the Inglewood Golf and Country Club.

Geography and Natural Environment

Kenmore is approximately 6.15 square miles in area, with roughly 39,000 lineal feet of shoreline on Lake Washington (21,000 lineal feet) and along the Sammamish River (18,000 lineal feet)

Figure 2.3 Map: City Shoreline/Wetland Areas



While limited opportunity exists for assembling parcels large enough for use as Community Park land, this is offset by the presence of unique environmentally sensitive areas, which can provide significant wildlife habitat and opportunities for appropriate public access and educational opportunities.

Wildlife Habitat

The natural systems in Kenmore include woodlands, ravines, riparian corridors, shorelines, wetlands, sensitive areas and other undeveloped areas, that provide critical habitat for Kenmore's diverse plant and animal communities. Creating connections and corridors provides essential habitat which contributes to the overall health and viability of both the plant and animal communities in Kenmore.



Figure 2.4 Photo: Squire's Landing Park Restoration Project 2013

In 2006 the city adopted its Critical Areas Ordinance and in 2012 adopted the Shoreline Master Program noting three primary wildlife and shoreline habitat areas including:

- Swamp Creek Corridor - This area and its associated wetland, ravines and riparian corridors contains approximately 2.4 miles of streams.



Figure 2.5 Map: Squire's Landing/Swamp Creek Habitat Restoration Plan (2012)

- Sammamish River-

Kenmore contains about 1.5 river miles and 4 miles of shoreline on the Sammamish River as it flows from Lake Sammamish generally westward into Lake Washington. The river also contains its associated wetlands, riparian corridors and floodplain.

- Lake Washington - The

Lake contributes about 3.4 miles of linear shoreline within Kenmore. As a result of urban development, very little natural vegetation remains along the

shoreline. St. Edward State Park has the longest undeveloped stretch of lake shoreline left in the city of just over .56 miles. St. Edward Park also contains the largest acreage of upland conifer forest in the city.

Demographics

Population

The city's 2013 population is presently 21,170 according to the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM). The Puget Sound Regional Council's draft 2035 population projection for Kenmore is 28,901 persons. Demographic and population projections are useful in projecting future park and recreation needs and level of service standards.

Table 2.1 City Population

2000 (US Census)	2010 (US Census)	2013 est.	2035 (PSRC draft)
18,678	20,460	21,170 est.	28,901

Age/Cultural Background

According to the 2010 census, the median age of Kenmore residents was 39.5 years with 77.2 percent of the population aged 18 and over. In the same year, the median age for King County was 37.1, with 78.6 percent of the population the age of 18 and over.

It is important to plan for the needs of all residents and all age groups, and to the extent possible provide balance in park and recreation opportunities. Planning for future delivery of park and recreation services should acknowledge demographic change over time not just in terms of population, but in terms of age and cultural background and that the regular updates to the PROS plan need to consider and reflect those changes.